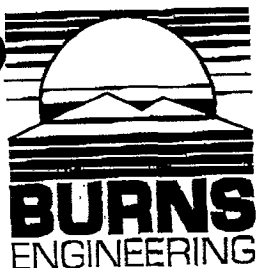


2000-15
Original to Rob

P.O. Box 761 • 360 Park Lane, Bethel Island, CA 94511 • ⁹²⁵510/684-3470 • FAX ⁹²⁵510/684-2926
Civ. Eng. No. 26984

June 5, 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Mr. Steve Richie, Acting Executive Director
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Levee Restoration Funding for Van Sickle Island in the Suisun Marsh

This letter is written as a follow-up to RD #1607's letter to you dated April 6, 2000. In that letter, the President of the Board, Gregory Palamoutian, explained the imperative need for immediate financial assistance to repair levee subsidence on Van Sickle Island. We understand that there is an effort to develop a program in the Suisun Marsh that will protect water quality and habitat by funding levee repair. There is a dire need to accelerate that effort while we have this construction season to work.

Levee restoration in the Suisun Marsh will help CALFED achieve its goals of increased water supply reliability, protection of water quality and preservation of habitat. The Marsh is the habitat of many endangered and threatened species as well as wintering waterfowl.

The RD #1606 Board of Trustees is preparing to budget \$10,000 for placement of riprap to repair and raise the freeboard along its Honker Bay frontage. See the enclosed location map. This is a critical site for the island because of its open exposure to Honker Bay and prevailing western winds and waves. During the high tide and winds of February 14, 2000, evidence of the debris line showed that overtopping didn't occur only because the wind direction was favorable. Because barge access to this site is practically prohibited by shallow water and because the levee access road to this site is narrow due to damage from the 1998 flood, the riprap will have to be delivered to the site by a small five yard bobtail dump truck. The quantity of riprap that can be placed for this amount of money is not at all adequate, although any riprap will help in our future flood fight efforts.

It is proposed that CALFED immediately initiate an interim program for the funding of an \$100,000 project for Honker Bay. It is proposed that the District's share of the funding be 10% or \$10,000 and that CALFED fund 90% or \$90,000. A project of this size could repair the access roads enough to more economically move riprap with larger truck and transfers, greatly improving the efficiency of the delivery.

An engineer's estimate of the project is attached. It includes placement of a wrapped splash cap covered with 1,245 tons of riprap along the 1,500 linear foot frontage of Honker Bay. It also includes 920 tons of fill and 330 tons of ¾ inch aggregate base along the levee access roads. The project is eligible for permit authorization from the Corps of Engineers under the Suisun Resource Conservation District's Regional Permit Number 3 for Maintenance Activities in the Suisun Marsh. This authorization has been applied for and is expected within 30 days.

In summary, this project is ready to go in 30 days and the local cost share is in place. In this case your action now will be much more effective in reducing the risk to water quality and supply than it will be later if high waters overtop and damage this levee.

Yours truly,



Barbara Burns,
District Engineer for RD #1607